



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Scott Walker

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**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Ben Brancel, Secretary

## **Recommendations for 2013 Exhibition Season**

*Reducing the risk of transmitting influenza virus*

These recommendations were developed in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Pork Producers Association.

### **General Risk Management Practices for All Swine Exhibitions**

Exhibition organizers should apply the following principles to all swine exhibitions:

#### **1. The exhibition organizer should:**

- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian who will serve as the show veterinarian or is willing to be on-call for show-related veterinary needs.
- Work with the show veterinarian well in advance of the exhibition to develop a plan for identification of and response to influenza-like illness in pigs or exhibitors. The plan should include a protocol to communicate with exhibitors before, during and after the show.
- Hold terminal shows following breeding animal shows whenever possible.
- Inform exhibitors and animal caretakers that people experiencing influenza-like symptoms (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, muscle aches) should not be in contact with swine for at least 24 hours after the fever ends without the use of fever-reducing medication, or until a physician has ruled out influenza as a diagnosis.

#### **2. The following should be discouraged in the animal areas:**

- Eating, drinking and smoking.
- Preparing or serving food and drinks.
- Bringing in pacifiers, baby bottles, drink cups and other eating or drinking utensils.
- Sleeping.

#### **3. An adequate number of hand washing stations should be maintained during the exhibition. Signage to encourage use of these stations should be posted.**

#### **4. Barn hygiene should be monitored and maintained. Special attention should be paid to areas where the public may have access.**

### **Influenza Risk Management Recommendations for Show Organizers**

Show organizers should consider utilizing the following tools to manage the animal and public health risk associated with influenza viruses at swine exhibitions. These tools will not eliminate the risk of influenza infection. However, each tool will by itself aid in reducing the risk of

influenza spread. Using a combination of the tools together as a part of an overall biosecurity plan will likely provide the greatest reduction in risk.

5. **Vaccination:** The Department recommends that all swine should be vaccinated for influenza prior to the opening day of the exhibition.

Swine should be vaccinated within 120 days of the opening day of the exhibition. Swine should be vaccinated according to the label directions which often require two doses of vaccine. If exhibited swine will be sold for slaughter, careful attention to vaccination withdrawal times is warranted. Most influenza vaccines have a required 21 day withdrawal period prior to slaughter. Exhibition organizers should take precautions to prevent ineligible swine from entering the slaughter channel.

Swine vaccinated for influenza are less likely to become ill and if they do become ill are likely to shed the virus for a shorter time. The immune system of a pig vaccinated for influenza is strengthened against influenza infection. Influenza vaccination will likely provide some degree of protection even if the swine are exposed to an influenza strain that is different than the specific virus strains used to make the vaccine.

Influenza vaccines are commercially available by the vial through farm supply stores, distributors and veterinarians. Veterinarians may offer smaller quantities to clients.

6. **Length of stay and multiple shows:** Exhibition organizers should take steps to limit the amount of time swine are congregated on the exhibition grounds.

Ideally, pigs entered in the competition will be on the exhibition grounds for not more than 72 hours. Additionally, there should be seven or more days between shows for any individual animal.

The longer pigs are congregated together the greater the risk that influenza virus will circulate among the pig population at that exhibition. If pigs become infected, a shorter duration of stay will decrease the risk other swine and people will be exposed to the virus.

**Exhibition organizers should:**

- Encourage dismissal and load-out of swine soon after they have completed their competition.
  - Separate animal displays, such as a sow with litter and breed type displays, from the animals entered in the competition.
7. **Barn monitoring:** Pigs should be observed at least 2-3 times daily for signs of disease or infection. Sick pigs should be immediately isolated and sent back to their farm of origin. Exhibitors should be encouraged to report signs of illness in swine to the appropriate show staff. If flu-like signs are observed, the show staff should contact a veterinarian to evaluate the animal and/or take the pig's temperature to determine if the pig will remain on the exhibition premises.